AUGUST, 1908 NUMBER 65

The University of North Carolina

RECORD

Self-Help at the University

CHAPEL HILL
PUBLISHED BY THE UNIVERSITY
1908

THE UNIVERSITY PRESS
CHAPEL HILL

The accompanying thesis was submitted to Professor M. C. S. Noble in the Department of Pedagogy and by him was transmitted to the President for publication.

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THE UNIVERSITY RECORD

Number 65 Fifty Cents a Year August, 1908

SELF-SUPPORTING STUDENTS AT A SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

When a boy contemplates going to college the first thing he considers is how much it is going to cost him. He thinks of the amount of money which he has on hand, if he has any, and then comes the question, How shall I supply the necessary amount? Registration fees can not be neglected, room-rent and board have to be paid, books have to be procured, and other necessary expenses have to be arranged for; and so, after a moment's reflection, he concludes that a poor boy can not get an education. In this paper I hope to give encouragement to such a boy by showing him that many University students with but little money have succeeded in supporting themselves while getting their education.

What It Costs

A close estimate of a year's stay at the University of North Carolina, obtained from students who have been as economical as possible, is as follows:

Tuition	$60.00
Registration fees	10.00
Medical and Infirmary fee	6.50
Gymnasium fee	4.00
Library fee	4.00
Damage fee	2.00
Room-rent, heat, and light	25.00
Board (in Commons)	72.00
Washing and laundry	11.25

Clothes, shoes, and repairs	30.00
Books	12.50
Literary Society and Y. M. C. A.	10.00
Hair cuts	1.35
Average railroad fare (two trips)	12.00
Hauling trunk to and from depot	.30
Incidental expenses	20.00
Total expenses	$280.90
Total expenses (with scholarship)	220.90

How tc Meet Expenses

There are various ways by which the different items may be paid. For instance, board, which is the largest item, may be obtained by waiting on tables either in Commons or in the village boarding houses; by washing dishes or chopping wood at Commons, or by club forming; that is, by soliciting boarders for a boarding house and collecting money for board. In these ways about forty-five men are enabled to pay their board by work, thus saving about three thousand, three hundred, and seventy-five dollars, or an average of seventy-five dollars a year to each man.

Many of the students make part of their expenses by acting as agents for clothing houses in the larger cities, and some really make enough to pay all of their expenses in this way. Their method is as follows: Two students form a co-partnership, get a line of samples from their house, and advertise extensively among their fellow students. In due time a tailor sent out by the firm comes to Chapel Hill with a full line of samples and makes an attractive display of them at the village hotel. During his stay the student-agents make special effort to get their friends to call and examine the samples and thus effect many sales on which they receive a handsome commission.

In addition to these there are agents for laundries, for life insurance companies, for college, fraternity, and class emblems, pennants, pins, etc.; the picture committee, and the cap and gown committee of the Senior Class.

In the University stenographers and typewriters are always in demand. Several members of the faculty employ student steno-

graphers. All senior theses must be typewritten; notes are used in some courses of study; and these notes are sold in typewritten form. Last year Dr. K. P. Battle's *History of the University*, Dr. C. L. Raper's *Wealth and Welfare*, and the students' annual publication, the *Yackety Yack*, were all sent to the publishers in typewritten form. This work is so remunerative that it is possible at times to earn as much as a dollar an hour. Eight or ten men are thus employed on an average salary of $60 a year, though some make their entire expenses in this way.

The University owns a printing office which is manned almost entirely by students. The manager, the pressmen, the compositors, are all students. The work done in this office each year amounts to about $3500, and of this amount about $1400 is paid to the printers. The average paid to each of the nine printers in 1904-1905 was more than $150, and last year the average was even greater.

About twenty men are employed as correspondents of the various papers of the state and the principal papers of the country. The majority of correspondents receive from one to three dollars a column for their copy. Although the amount earned by the correspondent of any one paper is not large, yet one man may represent several papers and so increase his income. Recently one man earned about $60 in a month.

In 1906-1907 six students were employed as clerks during the afternoons in the village stores, and thus earned for the year about $1350. Five janitors who looked after the lecture rooms made over $300. Firewood cutters made about $300 cutting wood in the village, student barbers from $5 to $10 per month, and two students found employment during their spare time in mending shoes.

One student is employed to carry the mail from the box at the South Building to the post-office, earning in this way $17 per year. Two students are employed as tellers at Chapel, each receiving the salary of $30 per year. Their duties are to take note of the absences at the morning exercises and report the same to the Registrar. Other means of employment are feeding horses, gardening, running pressing clubs, acting as railroad clerk, working as telegraph operator, tutoring children in the village, and coach-

ing backward students. From among the eligible students about 25 are appointed by the President to act as instructors and assistants in the different departments of the University and in the library. These twenty-five assistants earn more than $2500 a year.

Self-Help Committee

Self-help is encouraged in the University in every way possible. A committee of the faculty, known as the Self-Help Committee, is appointed to help find employment for the students who desire to work. The authorities of the University desire, as is stated in the annual Catalogue that, "no worthy boy, however poor, shall ever be turned away from the University for lack of means." It is shown at this institution every year that a boy who has the will to help himself, always finds a way. The amount earned by students is gradually increasing each year, as is shown by the reports of the committee on Selp-help. As the method of securing information is not very thorough it may be safely concluded that the number of students who aid themselves is much larger than that reported to the committee. The table given below, however, is a fairly accurate approximation and throws much interesting light upon the subject of self-help.

Self-Help Statistics, 1907-1908

OCCUPATION	NO. MEN	SUM EARNED
Agents—Clothing	22	$1560.00
" Laundry	4	300.00
" Photographs	4	200.00
" Emblems	1	100.00
Assistants	12	2550.00
Clerks	3	300.00
Fish Dealers	2	50.00
Hair Cutters	1	100.00
Janitors	7	395.00
Library Assistants	5	432.00
Licentiates	8	931.00
Literary Workers	11	200.00

Mail Carrier	1	17.00
Managers	2	225.00
Nurse	1	300.00
Organ Pumper	1	16.00
Printers	10	1500.00
Reporters	4	200.00
Sextons	2	72.00
Tellers	2	60.00
Ticket Sellers	1	10.00
Treasurers	2	90.00
Typewriters	6	1600.00
Waiters, Commons	27	1938.00
Waiters, private houses	16	1560.00
Wood Cutters	3	160.00
Miscellaneous	27	1620.00
Totals	184	$16486.00
Twice counted	20	
	164	

The Deems Fund

In 1879 Rev. Charles Force Deems, pastor of the Church of the Strangers, in New York, and formerly a professor in the University of North Carolina, established a loan fund of $600, in memory of his son, Lieutenant Theodore Disosway Deems, who fell in the Confederate service under Stonewall Jackson, and known as the "Deems Fund." In 1881 Mr. Wm. H. Vanderbilt greatly increased this fund by a gift of $10,000, "as an addition to the Deems Fund to be loaned to indigent students of the University." The Deems Fund has been a great help to students who are compelled to borrow money in order to complete their college course. Eighty-one have been helped during the past eighteen months, and up to August, 1907, five hundred and sixty young men have borrowed money from this great source of help.

"Do the men who work for their support get as much out of college as other men?" This is a question that is frequently asked. Taking the two classes as a whole I should say that they

get more. They do not attend as many ball games or as many entertainments. They do not have as much time to spend with their fellow students; in fact, they are deprived of a great many pleasures. Instead of going to the gymnasium or the athletic field for exercise and recreation in the afternoon, they exercise their muscles by swinging an axe, pulling a saw, or using a hoe. Many an afternoon while the boys are yelling out on the side-lines of the gridiron or the diamond you can hear the hum of the saw and the stroke of the axe in the Commons wood-yard. One might think that the lives of the students who work their way are more or less a burden, but this thought at once disappears when you see them after the game is over all gathered together around the bon-fire singing, "We're Tar Heels born, etc." and everyone yelling alike for Carolina. The student who is dependent upon himself, as a rule, does better work in college than the student who has plenty of money. He more fully appreciates the value of his time and therefore uses it to better advantage. One fact which, I am sure, will be encouraging to him who is contemplating working his way through the University, is that the student who works his way is regarded by his fellow students and the faculty with just as much respect, and I believe, just a little more than the student who had no difficulties to meet.

The Establishment of Commons

I have spoken in a general way of the work which Commons affords to the students. But since more men are employed here than in any other place at the University, I wish now to take it up a little more in detail, and show the wonderful returns from the investment of $3000.

In 1898, just ten years ago, Mrs. Baker of New York City gave the University the sum of $3000 to be used in buying tables, table-linen, silver ware, glass and china ware, crockery, and kitchen furniture, and to add a kitchen to the old gymnasium which was to be converted into a dining room to be known as Commons. When Commons opened, board in the town cost $10.00 to $15.00 a month. Commons at once furnished board for *$8.00 a month,

*Advanced $1.00 a month in 1908 owing to the increased cost of provisions, board in the town having been previously advanced for the same cause.

thus forcing down the prices in the town. The average number of boarders at Commons is one hundred and twenty-five, though sometimes there are as many as two hundred. About twenty students are employed as waiters or helpers. One student is employed as head-waiter, one as secretary and treasurer, five as dish-washers, two as wood-cutters, and one student waiter for every ten boarders. All students thus employed pay for their board with their service. They are appointed at the beginning of the session by a committee of the faculty known as the Commons Committee. Thus it is seen that Commons has done a three-fold service: furnished the students with good board for at least $2 a month less than they formerly had paid, forced a corresponding reduction on board in the town, and given employment to twenty students who might have been unable otherwise to come to the University.

The twenty men who have received board for work at $8 a month for ten years (nine months in each year) have earned in the ten years $14,400. The 125 men who have been boarding at Commons, have had their board reduced from $10 to $8, thus saving $2 a month to each man, or saving to the 125 men in ten years $22,500, making a total of $36,900 saved to boarders and helpers. In addition to this Commons has saved to the boarders at the other boarding houses at least as much per month by causing a reduction in the price of board. Thus we see some of the results in ten years of the investment of $3000. To the man who has money, this, it seems to me, ought to be an inducement for him to invest where it can do a great good and bring in marvelous returns.

Commons furnishes good substantial board at actual cost plus the amount necessary for repairs. The bill of fare for an ordinary day is as follows:

BREAKFAST

Steak or Eggs Oatmeal Hominy Biscuits

Butter Syrup Molasses

Sugar Coffee Pepper Salt

DINNER

Soup Boiled Beef Potatoes Cabbage
Rice Baked Potatoes Beans
Butter Syrup Macaroni Catsup
Bread Corn Bread Dessert

SUPPER

Roast Beef or Eggs Hominy Fruit Cheese
Biscuits Butter Syrup
Iced Tea Coffee Sugar Catsup

Summary of the Great Good Accomplished By Mrs. Baker's Donation.

Price for board at Commons $8.00 a month, an average saving of $2.00a month, or $18.00 a year less than formerly.

125 boarders saving $18.00 per session	$2250
200 boarders in town saving $18.00	3600
325 boarders, total saving a session	$5850

Again, 20 students each year pay for their board by serving as waiters, wood-cutters, etc.

20 students board at Commons $72 a session $1440

That is, $3000 thus invested gives $1440 in board each session or $14,400 during the past ten years, an amount almost five times as great as the original investment which still remains intact.

Equally interesting is the following:

20 students during the past ten years is equal to 200 students for one year, which is the same as 50 students for four years; that is, Mrs. Baker's gift has enabled 50 men to take a four-year course in the University, and, as has been said, the original investment still remains intact from year to year.

Letters from Old Students

In order to get at the facts and to offer something definite to any boy who would like to work his way through college, the following

letter was sent to many students whe were known to be "working their way through" the University, or who had completed their course and had gone to work in the world:

My dear Sir:

A member of one of the classes in the department of Pedanogy is preparing a paper to show the heroic struggle that has been made, and is yet being made, by many students at Chapel Hill to secure a University education. It is believed that such a paper would prove interesting enough to publish, and I write to ask your help and approval. The plan is to get some of those who have attended the University under great financial strain to write a brief account of their struggle. Those accounts will be carefully edited so as to conceal their writers' identity and at the same time be not only an encouragement to other young men of limited means striving after better things, but also a faithful portrayal of the true "grit" in the young manhood of North Carolina.

I suggest that your sketch should contain not more than 300 words, that it tell how much money you had on your arrival at Chapel Hill, or after registering, your first step to get money after arriving here, your monthly expenses, cost of clothing and other incidentals, and in what way or ways you supported yourself while here at the University. It would also be of great interest to give some account of your struggles in preparing to enter the University and to give any incident of your life here showing the lights and shadows of a self-supporting student's career.

The following are some of the replies that have been received:

My dear Mr. Noble:

I came to Chapel Hill in September —— with just enough money to pay my fees in the University and the first month's board in Commons. A farmer living one mile away, offered to furnish fuel, lights, lodging, and board for my services as help in his dairy. I had to milk cows at 5 p. m. and again at 4 a. m., strain the milk, and put it in cans for the boy who delivered it to customers in the village of Chapel Hill. I studied from 7 to 11 at night and at odd times during the day, and cut wood for citizens in Chapel Hill, when I could find a job, from 2:30 p. m. to 4:30

p. m., and on Saturday for five hours, making in this way money enough to buy clothes and books. Thus I was able to pay my way home in vacation when I taught a public school for 4 months, at $35.00 a month, and returned to the University in time to join the present Sophomore class three weeks after the term began. I am still with the farmer, but as I have saved enough from the money I earned by teaching to pay for my clothes and books, I shall do no extra work and put all my spare time on my studies.

Sincerely yours,

———————.

I came to Chapel Hill with $27.00. It took most of this to pay my entrance fees, room rent for the first month, and buy books that I needed in my college courses. I secured a position as waiter at Commons and in this way paid my board.

I found it necessary to be absent from the University during November in order to deliver fruit trees which I had sold during the summer. I returned on December 1st and by hard work managed to pass all my examinations. During the summer vacation I again sold fruit trees, thus making it necessary to be absent two or three weeks each fall in order to deliver the trees.

My expenses at the University were not very great, yet there were times when I did not know where the small amount I needed was to come from. I was forced to sell some books at a sacrifice in my Sophomore year to buy other books. I was accustomed to living in school with little money, however, as I paid my way in the preparatory school for three years by sweeping during the term and working during vacation.

My fees and room rent at the University amounted to about $45.00 a year, books about $15.00. I am unable to state accurately the amount of my other expenses, but they were very small.

By working while I was in college and during vacation, I made during my four years at the University about $200.00 more than my total expenses.

Very truly,

———————.

At the earnest solicitation of my friends, then students at the University, I decided to enter here in the fall of ——. On the first of September I arrived with $30.00 in my pocket. On attempting to register, I found to my great discomfiture that I was unprepared. I had no knowledge of Latin or Algebra and was not sufficiently prepared in English or Historry. So after a stay of four days I returned home in great mortification and with a firm determination to come back and graduate. I then spent two years at a preparatory school and found myself prepared to enter in my studies but unprepared financially to go to the University.

However, in September I arrived at Chapel Hill with just money enough left to pay my registration fees and two weeks' board. Through the "Self-helf Committee" I secured the position of "cutter" in the Commons wood-yard and in this way paid my board. I paid for my books by carrying the mail twice a day from the letter box at the South Building to the post-office.

I met my expense for clothing by representing, among the students, a Chicago firm. In the afternoons I did odd jobs for the citizens of Chapel Hill in order to make money with which to pay my regular college fees and to pay my way home.

Now I am in my Junior year and still want to graduate or take a year in law. So rather than interrupt my college course by dropping out a while, I shall return next year and maintain myself by working outside of University hours as heretofore.

Yours very truly,

———————.

In securing my education I had quite a struggle. My father was a poor, "one-horse" farmer, unable to give his children the best educational advantages. However, he sent me to the public school and sent me regularly. When the public school term closed he usually sent me to a private school if there was one within the reach of home. I hoped to get a pretty good "common school" education, but never dreamed of reaching college.

When I was seventeen I was sent to a high school three and a half miles from home, walking the round trip of seven miles a

day for two years. During the third year I boarded with the principal of the school and paid for my board by working for him in the afternoon.

When I was prepared for college, the principal offered to help me, if I wished to go, and I gladly accepted his help and went to ——— College.

The next year I wished to attend the University and by the aid of friends succeeded in borrowing one hundred dollars from the Deems Fund and began my studies at Chapel Hill. I secured a position in the kitchen of Commons which I held for two years, and then I was "promoted" and given a wood-cutter's place. During my third year I served as Chapel teller, receiving thirty dollars for my service, and made thirty dollars by coaching a class of first year "meds." By acting as agent for a clothing house I made money enough to pay for nearly all of my clothes. In this way I completed my course at the University. At the time the way seemed hard and the future far off. Now, I am glad that I have worked and kept "sticking" to it for I feel that my labor has found its own reward.

Sincerely,

———————.

In the spring of —— I left ——— High School with an indebtedness of thirty-five dollars which I promised to pay as soon as I could. During the summer I made money enongh to pay this debt and reach the University with sixty dollars. In order to make this amount "hold out" I worked during the afternoons and earned money with which to meet many of my expenses. I paid for my board by serving as waiter at Commons. I also made some money by acting as agent for a laundry. When I left the University at the beginning of the summer vacation I owed about twenty dollars. During the vacation I sold stereopticon views and made, by so doing, money enough to pay all debts and meet all expenses for the next year. I hope never again to leave the University in debt.

Yours truly,

———————.

When I started out into the world to get an education I had $3.25 which I earned cutting cord wood. I secured a position in a furniture factory at forty cents a day. After boarding a few weeks at $2.00 a week I found that I could not save much money although my wages had been raised. I then secured a partner and went to "batching" with a skillet and a frying pan as my kitchen outfit. I lived this way for a year and a half and at the end of this time I had saved up $110.00 to enter school.

After three years studying and "batching" while in school and working and "batching" during vacation, with the exception of one winter that I taught school, I finally completed the high school course. Then I remained out of school for one year, teaching during the winter, and working in the furniture factory during the summer. In this way I saved up $140.00 to enter the University.

I failed to get a position as waiter in Commons, but earned three or four months' board by taking the place of the regular waiters when they were absent because of sickness or other satisfactory reasons. When the year ended I had less than ten dollars. During the summer I sold stereopticon views and cleared $120.00. With this amount I had to buy my clothes and pay all of my expenses for the year. I failed to get work at Commons when the term opened but got a job later when some of the waiters dropped out, and at the end of the year I had $11.00.

Last summer I cleared $140.00 in the stereopticon business, out of which all of my expenses had to be paid. I secured a position at Commons for the entire year, and at the end of the year I will have $10.00 to start on for the next year.

In addition to my regular college fees, my expenses were about $2.00 per month and my clothes cost me about $25.00 a year. As I have made all of my expenses for three years in college I hope to get through without debt.

Sincerely,

_____.

The great dream of my childhood was to attend the University of North Carolina, and that, too, in the face of the fact that I

had no money with which to defray my expenses during preparation for college, or while at the University, should I ever be so fortunate as to enter.

After completing the course of study in one of our North Carolina public schools I determined to work my way through a preparatory school. A merchant in the village agreed to board me for my services when not in school. At the end of the year he asked me to return the following year which I was glad to promise to do. The second year was of little benefit to me as my father, on account of ill health, was forced to call me from school.

The third year I attended the high school. I found a home with a wealthy farmer under the same conditions as with the merchant. In this way I was prepared for entrance into the University.

During the summer of 1902 I raised a crop of tobacco, cured, and stored it away, and then entered the University the following September.

Within a few days after my arrival, I raised a club of boarders for Mrs. ———, and for this I received from her a part of my board, and thus with the receipts from my tobacco crop, I was almost independent.

The following summer I had typhoid fever and my doctor's bill was just five dollars more than the little that I had made during the vacation prior to my sickness. However, I could not bear the idea of not returning to the University and so went to Dr. Venable, a sympathetic friend of the poor boy. He strengthened my hopes, inspired me with new courage, and told me to return, assuring me that he would help me in every way he could. Upon my return I secured a position as waiter in Commons, in this way paying for my board. I converted my spare moments into cash by doing anything that I could find to do. This with a little help from the "Deems Fund" enabled me to pass my second year at the University. During the vacation of my Sophomore year I was prevented from earning any money, but I again secured a position at Commons, cut hair, and in other ways made about sixty dollars with which I was able to keep body and soul together. I shall have to stop and work next year, but with every prospect of being able to return to the University and receive my degree;

something I have looked forward to with alternate feelings of despair and hope.

Yours truly,

_____.

I came to Chapel Hill with $33.00 and immediately sought the aid of the Self-help Committee and through its assistance got some gardening work to do. After one week I began work at Commons, receiving as pay my table board. Having taught school before coming to the University I received free tuition. My monthly expenses were about three dollars, which I met with the pay received from gardening, chopping wood, and the like, during the afternoons. For fuel I bought dead trees in the college woods and cut them up, in this way saving much money. My expenses for clothing the first year were five dollars as I had a supply when I entered the University. At Christmas I borrowed twenty-five dollars with which to pay registration and other fees and buy books for the spring term. I continued to meet my other expenses as I had during the fall term, by working in the afternoons and at Commons.

During vacation I worked on my father's farm and sold fruit for him in a neighboring town. With the money received from him for this service I managed to pay back the twenty-five dollars I had borrowed and still had twenty-five dollars with which to return to the University. My second year's experience was a repetition of the first one with the exception that my clothes bill amounted to about twenty dollars.

The career of a self-supporting student has its shadows; work takes the place of association with the fellow students during the usual leisure hour and lessons have often to be neglected in the pursuit of money. But I have enjoyed my life here in an atmosphere of culture and abundant opportunities.

Sincerely,

_____.

Twelve years ago when I first determined to enter the University I had no money with which to attend a preparatory school,

and so, with only six months training in an academy, I set about preparing myself at home in the afternoons and nights.

I was twenty-five years old when I entered the Freshman class at the University. I arrived at Chapel Hill with only five dollars. I borrowed sixty dollars from the Deems Fund and then had $65.00 with which to pay registration fee and other necessary expenses. Having no money with which to pay board, I boarded myself, doing my own cooking and some of my laundering.

The first year was the most difficult for me. I had not learned to study in the "college fashion" and hence it was very difficult for me to keep up with my college clasess.

During my second and third years I did various things to make expenses, such as waiting on tables and teaching preparatory students. I bought only one new suit of clothes during my four years' course and in order to get it I walked to Durham, twelve miles away, bought it, and carried it back.

Every vacation found me in debt to the Deems Fund and some indulgent boarding house keeper, but I always managed to pay the latter before the next term opened, and I was also fortunate enough to keep the interest paid on my loans. One vacation I made $150.00 which was enough to pay all of my expenses for the following year.

At first I did not dream that it would be possible for me to remain in college more than a year, but the longer I stayed the more determined I became to complete my course. Therefore, without money, I was a student in the University for four years and prepared myself for the position which I now hold. I left the University owing the Deems Fund $200.00.

In conclusion I must say something about the faculty who are the friends of the poor students as well as of the rich. They never failed to encourage me and lend me every assistance, which was a philanthropic act on their part, for I had neither money, reputation, nor influential friends.

Yours truly,

_____,

After registering and paying for my books, I had money enough left to pay for one month's board in Commons. After the first month I boarded in a students' boarding club where board cost $5.00 to $6.00 a month. During the winter I borrowed $50.00 with which to pay registration fees and board. During February I secured a waiter's place in a village boarding house, receiving my board as pay. My total expenses for this year amounted to about $125.00.

During the summer I worked for $12.00 a week, and after paying back the money I had borrowed, I had $10.00 left with which to return to the University. At the beginning of my second year I borrowed $75.00 from the Deems Fund with which to pay registration fees and other expenses. I again paid for my board by waiting on the table. By acting as an agent for a laundry I received $6.00 a month. I carry nineteen hours academic work, am occupied at least twenty-five hours a week in waiting on the table, and two nights a week were necessary for the laundry work. At times this seemed like a difficult task, but I think it was worth the while, and I feel confident that any young fellow who wants to can come here to the University and get an education.

Yours truly,

———————.

I was nearly grown and had scarcely enough training to enable me to teach in a second grade public school when I decided to enter a preparatory school. I arrived at school on Saturday, and on Sunday put my last dime into the collection basket; so on Monday morning I started on my work "even with the world," as we sometimes say. I boarded in a club, my part of the provisions and furniture being brought from home. I paid half of my tuition by cutting wood and making the fires in one of the recitation rooms; the principal was indulgent to me for the other half. During the whole school year I had less than $5.00 to spend.

The following summer I worked on a farm until vacation ended. I borrowed $22.00 and again went to school where I remained only a few weeks; then I accepted a teacher's position in a distant county at $30.00 a month, receiving in all $127.50 with

which I paid all of my debts. After another summer's work on the farm I taught till January, and then accepted a government position which paid me $120.00 a month, for a few months, when I began to travel, taking orders for tomb-stones, receiving $50.00 per month. The following November, I re-entered school, this time paying all of my expenses for the year. The next year I entered the University having $46.00 saved from my summer's work on the farm and from the proceeds received as agent for the tomb-stone firm.

I paid $2.50 a month for room and light, seventy-five cents for laundry, and $8.00 a month for board. My total expenses for the year amounted to $205.00, so I was forced to borrow some money.

The next September I returned to the University with only $15.00. During the year, by selling clothes, shoes, and hats, and by corresponding for the papers, I made about $300.00. My expenses were about $250.00 and when I left for home at the close of the term I had $65.00 in the Bank of Chapel Hill.

During my third year at the University I made $170.00 and the following summer I once more traveled for the tomb-stone firm and cleared $210.00.

In my senior year my clothing, shoes, and hat business paid me $180.00. Although my expenses were greater, yet at the end of the year I found myself out of debt and in the possession of some money. During my college course I made over $1000.00 — more than enough to pay all my expenses.

Yours truly,

————————.

Early in the winter of —— I made a trip to England in a cattle boat; and it was this trip that caused me to take a college course, for it set me to thinking. I thought that if I could survive the hard life of a cattle boat I could surely make my way through college.

When I returned to my home in Massachusetts I began to plan with this end in view. I worked at a saw mill, in a quarry, and on my father's farm during the remainder of the winter and the next spring I sent for a catalogue of every University south of

Maryland and east of the Mississippi. After studying the courses of study and the opportunities for work offered at each place, I chose the University of North Carolina.

I arrived at Chapel Hill late in August with $30.00, and soon found Dr. Venable who put me on my feet at the doors of the University. But for his kindness and help I think that I should have been discouraged. Soon after arriving I earned $4.00 by directing envelopes; and when the University opened I earned $2.00 a month as janitor in the printing office. I obtained the position of timekeeper on the new water-works system, receiving $12.50 a month for my services. During the holidays I cut wood at the power house, and during the spring term made part of my expenses as assistant gymnasium instructor. As janitor of the Library and of the Carr Building I made $6.00 a month, and with the money thus received and by practicing rigid economy and giving up all social life, I returned home at the end of the year only $30.00 in debt.

I spent my summer vacation doing whatever I could find to do. I worked on the farm, in lumber yards, nailing and packing boxes in a wire mill, in a wholesale fruit store, and as a day laborer on road construction. I was night watchman at a mill for a while, moved books from an old library to a new one at another time, and in this way, managed to clear as much as $60.00 each summer. Once I worked my way on a passenger boat from Norfolk to New York and in this way cut down expenses.

During my Sophomore year I kept my position in the gymnasium, served as a waiter at a boarding house for my board, and by borrowing $25.00 was able to get through quite pleasantly.

My Junior year was spent practically as my Sophomore year was. My fourth and fifth years were very pleasant and my studies were very attractive. I served Dr. Coker as assistant in botanical investigations, earning in this way $150.00. In my fifth year I was laboratory assistant in botany, working out of doors all of my spare time, trimming trees in the campus and transplanting trees in the new arboretum. This was my most pleasant year at the University, for work was made sweeter as I looked forward to my graduation days. I shall never forget my commencement day.

All nature seemed happy and full of exuberance as I left behind me five years of hard work and study, and I felt that my years of training at a southern University, though full of work and sacrifice, had really prepared me for higher and better living.

Yours very truly,

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